

Current Volunteers**Castolon**

Lewis and Susan McCool—Camphosts (3rd)
 Bonnie Winslow—Camphost (1st)
 Ted Griffith—Visitor Center (1st)
 Jeanette McKinney—Visitor Center (1st)
 Daisy Welch & Steve Blythe—Maintenance (3rd)

Chisos Basin

Linda Jarvie—Camphost (2nd)
 Jim and Mary Lynn Murrell—Camphosts (4th)
 Phil and Peggy Spruell—Visitor Center (2nd)
 Ann Wildermuth—Visitor Center (2nd)
 Barney Ghim & Paula Jamps—Backcountry (7th)

Panther Junction

Elaine & John Jonker—VaRP River (7th)
 Joan Spalding—ScRM (1st)
 John & Delona Roth—ScRM (2nd)
 Bob & Pam Bono—Maintenance (1st)
 Karren Brown—Administration (1st)
 Mike Lovell—ScRM (2nd)
 Antonio Cantu—ScRM SCA (2nd)

Persimmon Gap

Mark Kirtley—Visitor Center (17th)
 Jim & Marlene Hufford—Visitor Center (4th)

Rio Grande Village

Amy Gibson—Backcountry (2nd)
 Walt Lemonovich—Backcountry (3rd)
 Mike and Nancy Coe—Backcountry (5th)
 Walt Oglesby & Louise Jewell—Camphosts (1st)
 Dave England—Camphost (1st)
 Dennis Hanson—Visitor Center (1st)
 Bonnie Auman—Visitor Center (1st)

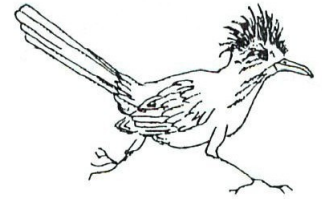
Resident and remote volunteers

Reine Wonite—Park Videographer (11th)
 Jim Bishop—BBNHA
 Mark Williams—VaRP
 Laurie Meadows—VaRP

* Number in () indicates years of service

Thoughts on the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act

By Jane Brown



"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it." - President Lyndon B Johnson on signing the Wilderness Act, 1964

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act and NPS will have many activities and programs to celebrate this event. In the Wilderness Act, wilderness is defined as follows: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

To take this one step further what exactly is meant by "trammel"? A "trammel" is a net used for catching fish, or a device used to keep horses from walking. To trammel something is to catch, shackle, or restrain it. Untrammelled means something being free or unrestrained. Wilderness areas are to be unconstrained by humans. Howard Zahniser, the author of the Wilderness Act, defined "untrammelled" as "not being subject to human controls and manipulations that hamper the free play of natural forces."¹

The mission statement of the National Park Service has a much different intent. "The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The park service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world." People are a big part of the National Park mission!

There are 758 designated wilderness areas currently included in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) comprising 109,544,523 acres.

¹ www.wilderness.net

They are administered by the National Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and The Fish and Wildlife Service. The U.S. Forest Service manages the most wilderness area units (439) but the National Park Service manages the most acres (43,926,000). The largest wilderness area is Wrangell-St. Elias in Alaska at 9,078,675 acres. In the lower 48 the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness is the largest at 2,300,000 acres. Based on personal experience, I can attest that it is a true wilderness, as it is nearly impossible to gain access to it by automobile, which is the whole idea.

California has the most numerous wilderness areas with 139 units and 14,989,637 acres. Alaska has the most acreage at 57,425,992 acres. Back east, there are 63 wilderness areas in the “East Coast States” and they comprise 1,034,021 acres. By far the largest is Okefenokee Swamp in Florida with 353,981 acres. Number two is the Shenandoah Wilderness at 79,579 acres. As one can imagine, many of the “back east” areas are 5,000-10,000 acres.

You can locate a designated wilderness at [**www.wilderness.net**](http://www.wilderness.net), an amazing website developed by the University of Montana. I decided to search for North Carolina wilderness areas, since that is the state I am most familiar with. As expected the swamps at the eastern part of the state and the remote western-most mountains contained names that were familiar wilderness areas to me. Then I spied one that I didn’t know... Birkhead Mountains Wilderness. Where are the Birkhead Mountains? What? In the middle of the state near Ashboro, North Carolina ... hard to believe! Which begs the question...what qualifies an area for wilderness designation?

According to the Wilderness Act, the following conditions must be present for an area to be included in the NWPS: (1) the land is under federal ownership and management, (2) the area consists of at least five thousand acres of land, (3) human influence is “substantially unnoticeable,” (4) there are opportunities for solitude and recreation, and (5) the area possesses “ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.”

There are only six states that do not have at least one designated wilderness area: Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Iowa and Kansas.

We can thank Aldo Leopold for pushing through the first designated wilderness area. During his tenure with the U.S. Forest Service, he began to see the land as a living organism and developed the concept of community. This concept became the foundation upon which he became conservation's most influential advocate. Through persuasion, fueled by an ability to speak and write about the magic of the wilderness, Leopold convinced his Washington bosses to adopt a concept that was unique at the turn of the last century: That pieces of wild land should be set aside and kept untamed. On June 3, 1924, three-quarters of a million acres of mountains, rivers and desert in New Mexico was administratively (rather than Congressionally) designated as the Gila Wilderness, the first area in the world to be managed as a wilderness area. You can learn more about Aldo Leopold’s concepts in his book, The Sand County Almanac, which was published posthumously.

In 1978, the National Park Service and the Carter Administration recommended that 533,000 acres of Big Bend National Park met requirements for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and be designated as such. While Congress has yet to act on the proposal, wilderness advocates continue to hope for that highest of recognition for the park's wilderness.

We simply need wilderness available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. —Wallace Stegner, 1960

And the next stop is.....

*After a five month stint here, **John and Cyndee Perry** are leaving in the next few days for the North Rim of the Grand Canyon where they will campost this summer. In the fall, they will be at St. Simon's Island in Georgia. They plan on returning to Chisos Basin Visitor Center next February, March and April.*

***Larry and Julie Brabec** also arrived in November and left the end of March as planned, returning to Lake Thompson Recreation Area in South Dakota. Unfortunately they will not be coming back next winter as they plan to volunteer in Everglades National Park. We will miss them!*



***Walter Oglesby and Louise Jewell** are taking a break from volunteering, returning to Boone, North Carolina for a couple of months. Then they plan on resuming their travels with a tour of the Pacific Northwest and points beyond.*

***Dennis Hanson** is headed to Cape Romain National Seashore in South Carolina for two months, then Gila Cliff Dwellings from July to December. He will hopefully be back at Big Bend next spring.*

***Susan and Lewis McCool** are returning home to Cortez, NM where Lew will resume his duties at Mesa Verde National Park for quite a while. We hope to see them back at Big Bend next spring.*

***Steve Blythe and Daisy Welch** will be spending the summer volunteering at Thousand Springs State Park in Idaho in the middle of the Snake River. Should be interesting! They will actually be living on the mainland and commuting on workdays to Ritter Island.*

***Joan Spalding** returns to New Hampshire for the summer and hopes to return to Big Bend next November to continue her work with Tom Alex.*

***Jim and Marlene Hufford** will be taking off to the far north of Minnesota and Wisconsin to visit kids, grands, great- grands, and grand dogs/cats.*

***Mike and Nancy Coe** will be regrouping in Plano, Texas for the month of May and then heading out to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Look for them at the campground!*

***Peggy and Phil Spruell** will travel to Houston in May for grandchildren birthdays, then leave mid June for the summer. They will attend the International Airstream Convention in Gillette, WY and then immediately join a caravan that goes from July 5 through August 22 travelling to Yellowstone, the Tetons, Glacier, Mt St. Helen, and many other places ending up in northern Ca. So we will return to Texas through Utah and catch Zion and the parks there. Probably return to Texas mid to late September, in time to rest up and work around our home before returning to Big Bend next year.*



Next Stop Continued...

Bob and Pam Bono are hiking the Appalachian Trail the month of June and will be back in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania in July. Their plans are up in the air after that.

Bonnie Winslow goes back home to central Oklahoma in time for tornado season. She will spend July in Santa Fe, NM visiting friends and hopes to travel north to Colorado, and Wyoming; or maybe Michigan in August.

Ted Griffith is not so sure what he is doing this summer, but I am sure that he will come up with a good plan! He hopes to be back at the Castolon Visitor Center for the fall session in November.

Amy Gibson goes to Rocky Mountain National Park and Gila Cliff Dwellings NM for the upcoming months. She will be back at Big Bend in February 2015 to resume duties in the East District backcountry.

Dave England is headed to Rocky Mountain National Park also where he will volunteer for the Interpretation Division at Holzwarth Historic Site on the west slope from June until September.

Timely Arrival in Terlingua

by Jane Brown

It was the last evening of “spring break” and I looked up in the sky from my front yard and saw about twenty large black birds coming in for a landing on the cliffs. Like the swallows returning to Capistrano, the turkey vultures had returned to the cliffs above Ben’s Hole in Terlingua right on schedule. About three years ago I began to notice that these desert scavengers hung around until the week before the Chili Cook-off in October and returned the weekend after Spring Break. Does someone send them an email? Do they have a problem with our bi-annual influx of tourists? Every year they settle in for the summer, roosting on the cottonwood trees at the bottom of the canyon while the weather is still cool and moving up to the cliffs once it heats up. We don’t spend much quality time together because I know that when they arrive, I will be leaving for the summer very shortly. Likewise, we only have about 8 weeks together from September until the end of October in the fall. Where do they go? Some canyon in Mexico I suppose where the weather is a bit warmer in the winter. In the meantime I marvel at their punctuality and reliability.



Wednesday, April 23 Hiking Club Hike—We had a fun hike in March to Upper Burro Mesa Pour-off. In April we will be hiking in the High Chisos, destination to be announced via email. If it is hotter than the hinges of Hades, we will reconsider at that time.

If you haven't taken a hiking club hike yet, this is a chance to visit with other volunteers and see something in the park that you might not see on your own. The hikes are moderate, not Olympic events. A van will leave from headquarters at 8 am and emailing Jane (Jane_Brown@nps.gov) to let her know that you are coming is a good idea, but not required.



Volunteers are needed this month to check out back country rules and regulations of other national parks, state parks and other public lands. This is a good job for someone with time on their hands at a Visitor Center and computer access. Big Bend National Park would like to re-vamp some of their back country regs and want to know what other places require in regards to human waste disposal systems and bear canisters. Do they sell or rent them? How much? Natasha Moore is looking for volunteers to do the leg work (ok, e-mail and/or phone work) to collect this info for us to be able to take to the Management Team. Anyone who is interested, please contact Natasha Moore at Natasha_Moore@nps.gov or call her at 432-477-1196 for a questionnaire and location list. Also if VIPs have any knowledge or personal experience of what other areas require concerning human waste disposal, especially if it worked well, please email Natasha with this information.

Things to Remember



*This is Jane after
the volunteers leave*

Before April is over, most of you will be leaving Big Bend, at least until next year. Hopefully you have enjoyed being here as much as we have enjoyed having you!

If you work at a visitor's center, remember to turn your fee card in to Jim Hines. Radios go back to Dispatch. Keys need to be turned into Julie Hernandez. If she isn't in her office, there is a little "key drop-box" to the right of her door. Just be sure to write your name and the location where you were working on the little yellow envelope and drop the whole thing in the black metal box. Library books go back to the Interp Library (no surprise there!) and I will take any uniform items. If I am not in my office, it is ok to leave uniforms on the table next to my desk with a note saying who they are from. For those of you in apartments, the checkout process is different and your supervisor should know the drill.

I really want your timesheets for **all** the months that you worked! If you are under 62 years of age and volunteered for more than 250 hours this year, you are eligible for a free annual VIP pass to all the national parks. Just ask me!

If you know that you are returning next year and only had a SAC background clearance this year, you may need to arrange to get a NACI before returning next year. I have been trying to stay on top of this, but just in case I missed someone, ask me!

We need feedback on our volunteer program in general and on the work that you did individually while you were here. Look for a Feedback Form in the folder that you received when you arrived and please fill it out and turn it in. Comments, criticisms, remedies and ideas are welcomed and will be reviewed.

Events in the Area

Tuesday, April 8—All Employees Meeting 2:30 PJ Community Room. Lots of updates.

Saturday, April 12—2nd Annual Highland Games, 10 am at Daniels Ranch. The Challenge: Ghost Ride, Oar Toss, Crotch Rock, Tree Climb, Three-legged Pickup, Running Archery, Tug-of-Love, Tug-of-War. Rules: You must wear a kilt, you must register, you must be a park resident. Prizes awarded to men's and women's overall high score winners, category winners, best dressed and best warrior. To register: Find Michael Ryan, Billie Brauch, Elaine Jonker, or Natalie Craig. \$5 for early registration, \$10 for day-of registration. Game registration gets you lunch and more info on the highland games! Casa Grande will sell beverages at the event.

Saturday, April 12 Presa Canyon Day Hike at Seminole Canyon State Park—Guided hike into lower Seminole Canyon and Presa Canyon—8 am-4:30 pm. This is an amazing backcountry hike to secluded prehistoric rock art sites, 7 miles of fairly flat walking led by a member of the Texas Rock Art Society. Cost: \$25.00 For reservations call Tanya Petruney at 432-292-4464.

Wednesday, April 16—VIP Awards Ceremony in the Panther Junction Community Room at 6 pm—Come and say Thank You to the volunteers! This event is held twice a year as a way to honor our volunteers here at Big Bend. Food and beverage is provided free of charge and all are invited to attend. The social 1/2 hour begins at 6 pm, with dinner served at 6:30 pm. The volunteers don't need to bring a thing however, it is helpful if you have your nametag on. Park employees are asked to bring a dessert.

April 19—Celebration of the opening of the POE—The official Boquillas Port of Entry crossing, providing access to Boquillas, Coahuila, Mexico, as well as the protected areas of Maderas del Carmen, Ocampo, and Cañon de Santa Elena, will celebrate its first year of operations April 19th at 11:00 AM. The village of Boquillas, Mexico, will also celebrate the same day, with music and food available at several restaurants. The celebration will include a short presentation followed by refreshments, and will conclude about noon. Visitors coming for the celebration only, and not crossing into Mexico, are asked to park at the Rio Grande Village Store and parking lot starting at 10:00 AM. A short shuttle will be provided to the Boquillas Port of Entry from the Rio Grande Village Store. A return shuttle will be provided after the celebration. On the day of the celebration, visitors wishing to cross over to Boquillas, Mexico, are invited to park at the Port of Entry.

Powerpoint Slideshow for the April Awards Dinner

by Jane Brown

I am putting a powerpoint slideshow together for the Awards Dinner in April and I **need** photos of your best moments at Big Bend. Please email me a few of your favorite photos—I am especially interested in outstanding scenery, photos of your fellow volunteers and events that have taken place in the park. If any of you worked on a special project that deserves attention, send a photo along. Please do not reduce the pixels of the photos too much...I know that it can be difficult to email the larger photos. If photos can be downloaded from another location, let me know! If you have already sent me photos, THANKS!